

**COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET**  
**MINUTES**  
**MARCH 21, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Peter Atkinson, Entomology, Chair  
Dana Simmons, History, Vice Chair  
Reza Abbaschian, Mechanical Engineering  
Juliann Allison, Gender & Sexuality Studies  
Subramanian Balachander, Business  
Roger Lake, Electrical & Computer Engineering  
David Lo, School of Medicine  
Hiroki Nishimura, Economics  
Ayala Rao, Microbiology & Plant Pathology  
Frances Sladek, MCSB  
Yadong Yin, Chemistry

**ABSENT:**

Bronwyn Leebaw, Political Science

Chair Peter Atkinson called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

The committee unanimously approved the March 14, 2023 minutes as written.

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES/REMINDERS**

Chair Atkinson will attend the Academic Council meeting on March 29, 2023, as well as a forthcoming meeting of the campus PhD Funding Workgroup.

At a future Planning and Budget meeting, Chair Atkinson would like to discuss the UC Davis financial model and the role that their campus Planning and Budget Committee plays in the financial process. Of interest will be the role that the UC Davis FEC chairs play. Systemwide P&B wishes to come up with a "best practice" standard for each division's P&B Committee, and it looks like UC Davis may be the model.

Furthermore, at a future P&B meeting, Chair Atkinson would also like to review and discuss four documents from Jacqueline Norman, the campus architect. The documents are part of the campus' ten-year Capital Financial Plan which includes an annual assessment of priorities. The Physical Resources Planning (PRP) Committee is the prime senate committee that is involved in these reviews, but P&B also has an interest.

Vice Chancellor Bomotti drafted a new campus policy/guideline for research labs. He has asked P&B to review this proposed policy, and Chair Atkinson has already drafted an initial set of comments (which were circulated to the committee).

**[SYSTEMWIDE REVIEW] PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PRESIDENTIAL POLICY BFB-BUS-43 PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES; SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

Planning and Budget unanimously rejected the *Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management*. The committee noted the description of the many changes made to the original document from 2021 with respect to the simplification of bureaucratic language. The committee recognized the intent of the revised policy to support local small businesses and is supportive of this intent in general terms but remained deeply concerned with the procedures proposed.

The committee's concerns remain the same as those summarized by former P&B Chair Kinney in her memo to then Division Chair Stajich of February 18, 2021. It remains unclear to the committee whether the small business bid policy applies to faculty PIs and research grants. If so, the proposal will significantly increase the bureaucratic burden on faculty and staff, introducing needless additional paperwork where PIs will be requested to justify their purchases of office, laboratory, studio supplies, and equipment, when a local supplier is not used. The committee is dismayed that the core of this revision remains essentially unchanged despite its previous criticisms and despite the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on UC Riverside staffing levels with the resulting additional burden on faculty.

Perhaps one solution is for the writers of this policy to identify potential small businesses relevant to the mission of the university that qualify as being close to each of the ten UC campuses. This list could then be circulated to the relevant procurement officers who could then circulate it to their departments. However, the committee again states that whatever administrative procedure is developed, it cannot increase the existing burden on faculty and the few support staff remaining in their departments.

**[CAMPUS REVIEW] FTE TRANSFER REQUEST: 50% FTE TRANSFER FOR PROFESSOR RICHARD RODRIGUEZ TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

The committee discussed the request for 50% FTE Transfer for Professor Richard Rodriguez back to the Department of English from his current 50% FTE in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies, making his appointment 100% in the Department of English within the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences effective July 1, 2023. P&B voted unanimously to support this request.

**[CAMPUS REVIEW] FTE REBALANCING: CAROLINE ROPER - REQUEST TO CHANGE FTE SPLIT APPOINTMENT**

The committee discussed the request to change the FTE split appointment to 50% IR and 50% OR for Professor Caroline Roper in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology within the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences effective April 1, 2023. P&B voted unanimously to support this request.

**[CAMPUS REVIEW] PROPOSAL: NEW UNDERGRADUATE MINOR: MINOR IN PLANETARY SCIENCES**

The committee voted 9 to 2 in favor of the new undergraduate minor in Planetary Sciences. Those opposed raised two concerns:

1.) Item 10. They believed it was inevitable that any new major or minor, no matter the size of the enrollment, would impact the bureaucratic burden of the department, especially considering that UC Riverside is chronically understaffed. As such, these members requested that the proponents of this minor consider their response in this context.

2.) Item 11. The single supporting letter from the chair of Earth and Planetary Sciences was seen as being insufficient, considering that this proposed minor may be of interest to faculty with the Department of Physics & Astronomy, especially if this department has a related program.

Related to the points raised about the first concern above, the entire committee recommended that the instructions for Item 10 be edited to recognize the chronic staffing problem at UCR. A possible example could be the addition of a sentence such as: "In addressing possible impacts, please be aware of the understaffing of offices at UC Riverside, recognizing that even small additions to staff workload may have disproportionate impacts on the operation of relevant offices."

### **MEETING WITH VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PLANNING, BUDGET, AND ADMINISTRATION**

Vice Chancellor Bomotti indicated that the State budget Act of 2022 provided \$51.5M in cash to UCR for the Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Facility (UTLF), with a legislative intent for two more allocations of the same amount, for a total of \$154.5M. Given UCR's need, the plan was to move ahead on the project if the second allocation came this legislative session, which would put UCR at a little risk for the third allocation. But VCPBA felt confident the state would honor that final installment.

At this time, VCPBA is thinking that if UCR does not get any funding this legislative session, VCPBA will adjust the schedule and wait for next session. However, VCPBA was encouraged by a report from the LAO office on the Governor's recommended budget, specifically related to the UTLF. The LAO contacted VCPBA and asked for information and provided many questions, and VCPBA responded. LAO came out with a report and recommendation to the legislature early this month—including below are the most pertinent elements relative to the UTLF.

***Recommend Revisiting Certain UC Capital Projects.*** In response to the state's projected budget deficit, the Governor proposes to delay a total of \$366 million in one-time funding for four UC capital projects until 2024–25. Rather than delaying funding, we recommend the Legislature revisit whether to proceed with two of the projects. Those two projects (at UCLA and UC Merced) are in very early planning phases, have spent no state funds to date, lack key project information or lack justification (based on enrollment projections), and are not urgent. ***For the UC Riverside project, we recommend weighing it against UC's other capital priorities. If the Legislature determines this project is the most pressing priority, we recommend it consider financing the project using university bonds.*** Lastly, for the UC Berkeley project, we recommend the Legislature obtain a more comprehensive project plan before proceeding, as the need for additional state funding moving forward could be considerable.

***Riverside Campus Expansion Project Has Stronger Justification.*** UC Riverside plans to add an Undergraduate Teaching and Learning Facility that would provide up to 78,000 assignable square feet for general assignment classrooms, specialized teaching spaces, and teaching assistant preparation spaces. UC estimates the project would add approximately 900 classroom seats. In UC's Capital Financial Plan 2021–27, UC Riverside listed this project as its top

*funding priority. UC Riverside has justification for the additional space. In UC's most recent utilization report (using data from fall 2018), UC Riverside was using its existing classroom space at 104 percent of legislative standards and its laboratory space at 121 percent of legislative standards. Moreover, since fall 2018, total campus enrollment (headcount) has increased approximately 2,900 students (12 percent). The project is expected to address some of the campus's existing space shortages. Though no state (or nonstate) funds have been spent on the project to date, the campus expects to encumber \$6.8 million over the next several months for preliminary plans.*

VCPBA is hopeful this recommendation will get some traction. The Speaker of the Assembly has taken a specific interest in this recommendation.

With respect to Spieth Hall renovations: currently funded projects include roof/mechanical improvements, elevator, electrical, and ground level entry doors moved to electronic (\$5.1M). Some is happening now (roof) and the rest will be later this year and into all of next year. The current "roof" project is more mechanical than actual roofing, at least in cost. The mechanical system on the roof is all being replaced with this project.

VCPBA included \$30M as an allocation for Spieth in the potential 2024 GO Bond request. There is a relationship between Spieth class labs and UTLF. VCPBA has been considering whether it would make more sense to provide new class labs in UTLF, and then transition some/all of the current class labs in Spieth to some other use. That is still under review.

Regarding the Physics building: currently funded projects in process include elevator, roof, general mechanical improvements, and ground level entry doors moved to electronic (\$9.46M). Most will happen later this year and through all of next year. As with Spieth, the roofing project here is as much mechanical as just the roofing itself. There is a \$16.6M allocation for Physics in the potential 2024 GO Bond request.

There are less funded projects with the Life Sciences building. VCPBA did include \$7M in the potential GO Bond request for 2024 for mechanical improvements for this building.

There will be major improvements in the campus primary power infrastructure, and the Spieth/Life Sciences, Batchelor and Physics buildings all directly benefit from these investments as well (given they are some of the oldest campus electrical infrastructure). There are many facilities needs on campus, and all campuses have deferred maintenance issues, although UCR has buildings with original roofs over 60 years old – a very good roof may last 30 years.

Vice Chancellor Bomotti indicated that the campus has moved ahead to use \$47M from Assembly Bill 2046 (and the \$15M from the 2021 legislative session) for capital needs.

The meeting was called to a close at 1:35pm.